

MARVEL

004

WALKER
BLAKE
MENYZ



LUKE
CAGE

While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

While in New Orleans for the funeral of Dr. Burstein, the man who gave him his powers, Luke's mourning became an investigation into Burstein's suspicious death. With assistant Dr. Lenore Mornay, Burstein had repeatedly used the "Burstein Process"

that super-powered Luke on a number of patients: magnate Cyril Morgan's son, KevLar and his gang the Ninth Ward Mafia, and Frankie Corello, who went mad as a result, killed his criminal father, and attacked Luke and Mitchell "Warhawk" Tanner-Burstein's first test subject.

Warhawk was slashed by a Damocles blade, which cuts bulletproof skin and which, unbeknownst to Luke, Cyril Morgan has given to KevLar. Meanwhile, Warhawk, suffering from his wounds and the Burstein Process madness, can only be saved by Burstein himself.

Luckily, he's just reappeared, very much not dead...

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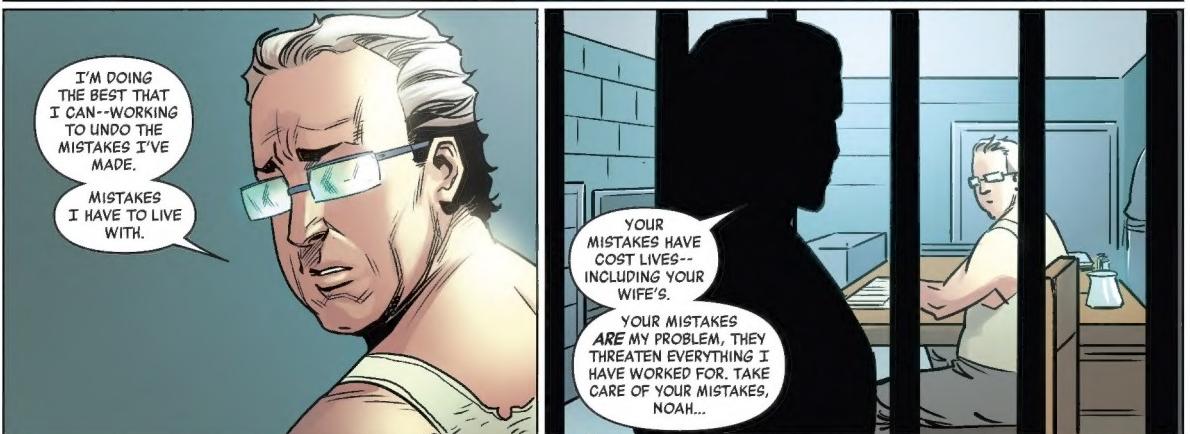
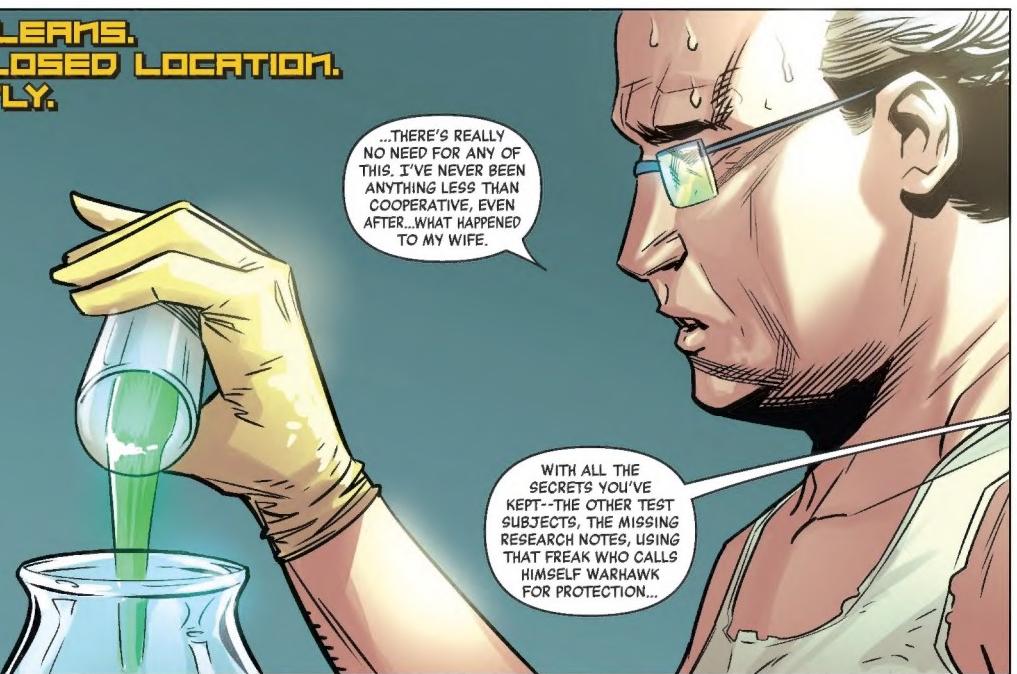
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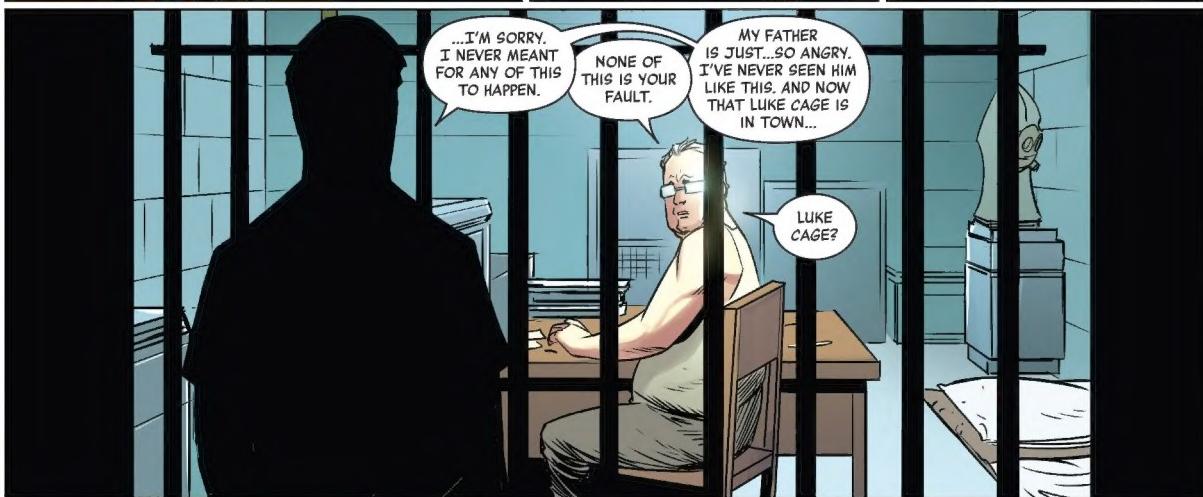
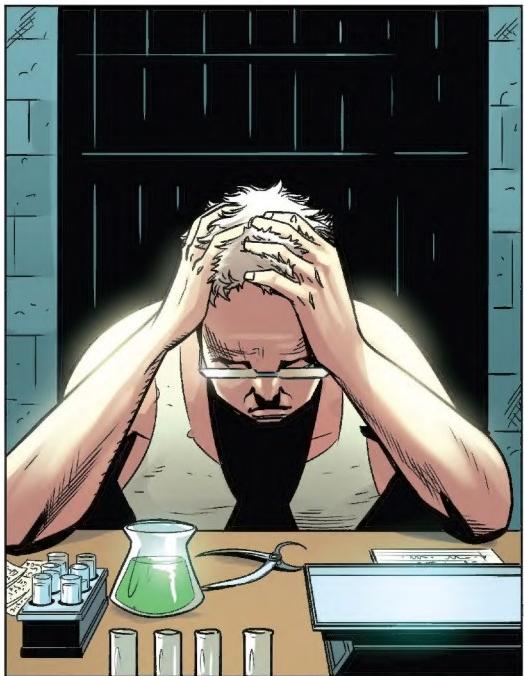
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Executive Producer

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NEW ORLEANS.
UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
RECENTLY.





**NEW ORLEANS.
NOW.**





THE HOME OF MATEO CORELLO.

MAN, WHAT
WE DOIN'
HERE?

WE PUTTIN'
IN WORK,
SON.

PUTTIN' IN
WORK? MAN, WE
JUST CLEANIN' UP A
MESS FOR MR. MORGAN.
AND WE REALLY GONNA
KILL LUKE CAGE AND
WARHAWK?

MAYBE.
MAYBE NOT.

MR. FILTHY-
RICH-MONEYBAGS
SAY WE DO THIS. WE
IN BIDNESS WIT'
HIM, RIGHT, KEV?

YEAH, MR. FILTHY-RICH-MONEYBAGS
BE SAYIN' LOTTA THINGS, RAY. THE KEY
IS UNDERSTANDIN' WHAT HE REALLY
MEANS. HE AIN'T LOOKIN' TO DO
BIDNESS WIT' US...

...HE LOOKIN' TO
OWN SOME NEGROES
TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.
THESE ITALIANS MESSED
IT UP, SO HE'S MOVING
DOWN THE FOOD
CHAIN.

WE
GETTIN' PAID,
FO' SHO...

...BUT HE
OWN US WITH
THAT MONEY.
FEEL ME?

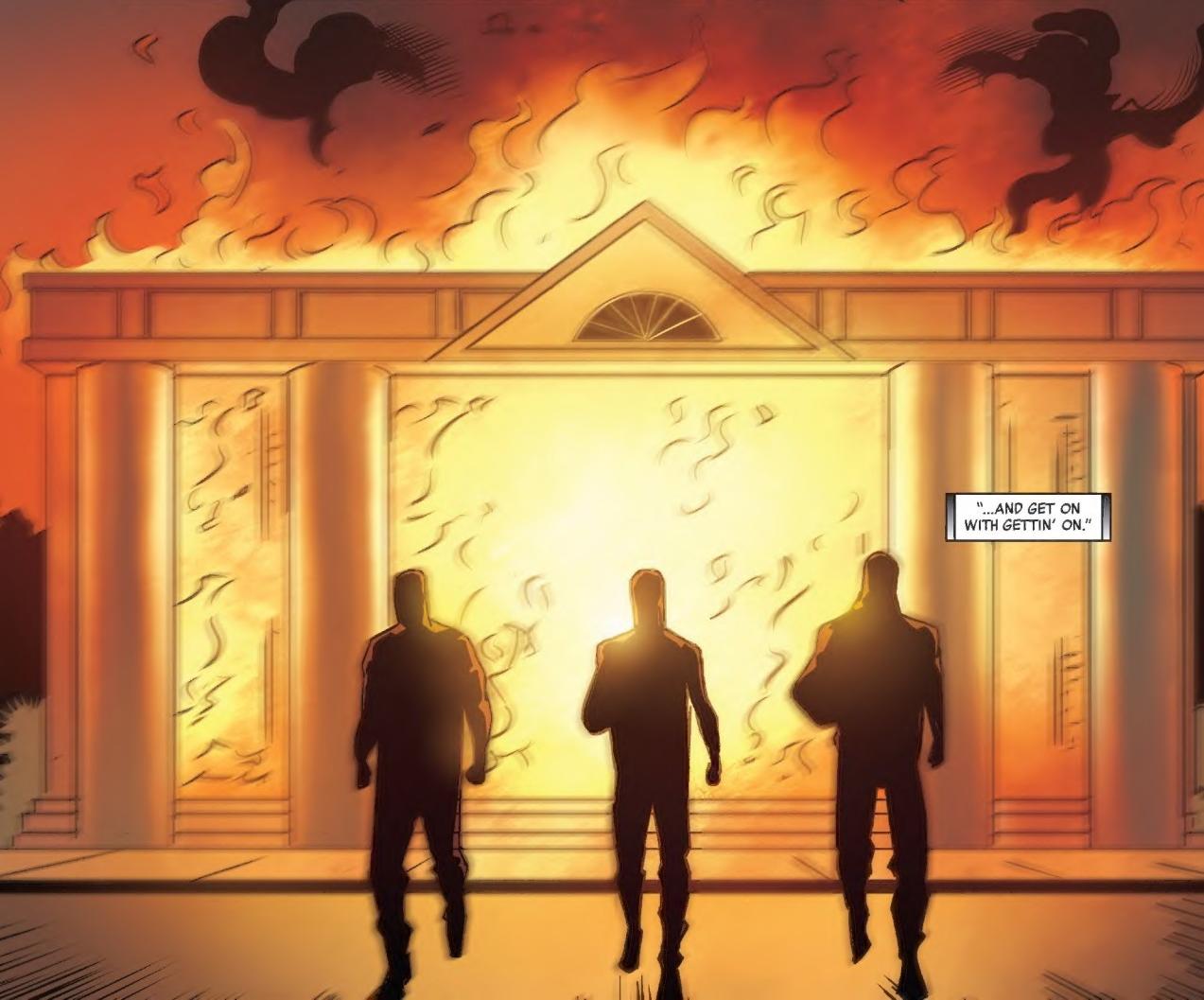
BUT WE GOT
STRENGTH, YO.
MAN, YOU AIN'T EVEN
GOT THE CRAZINESS.
THAT GOTTA MEAN
SOMETHING.

DON'T MEAN #\\$@%, REST OF Y'ALL
GOT THE CRAZINESS, THANKS TO DR. B
AND HIS MAD-SCIENTIST ASS.

MR. FILTHY-
RICH-MONEYBAGS
GIVE US MAD PAPER
TO CLEAN UP HIS MESS FOR
HIM--TO KILL FOR HIM--
BUT HE AIN'T GIVE US
NO CURE FOR THE
CRAZINESS.

THAT MAKES
US SLAVES TWO
TIMES OVER--AND
I AIN'T LOOKIN'
TO BE A SLAVE.

KASLAAM



THE ESTATE OF CYRIL MORGAN.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT.

...NOAH BURSTEIN AND HIS EXPERIMENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROBLEMATIC, TO SAY THE LEAST.

"I TOLD YA SO." THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

I WOULD'VE EXPECTED SOMETHING MUCH MORE ELOQUENT.

I WARNED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO ME WITH YOUR PROPOSITION THAT IT WAS RISKY...

YOUR ABILITY TO BE FLIPPANT IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING INEPTITUDE IS ALMOST CHARMING, MR. MORGAN.

INEPTITUDE? YOU CAN KISS MY INEPT ASS.

BURSTEIN IS BEING DEALT WITH. CORELLO AND HIS CREW HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH.

EVEN THE MESS CORELLO MADE--I'M DEALING WITH ALL OF IT.

AND AS FAR AS BURSTEIN'S EXPERIMENTS GO--THOSE THUGS IN THE NINTH WARD MAFIA--I'M TAKING CARE OF THEM, TOO.

EVERYONE WANTS TO PLAY GOD, MR. MORGAN, BUT MOST JUST END UP BEING THE DEVIL.

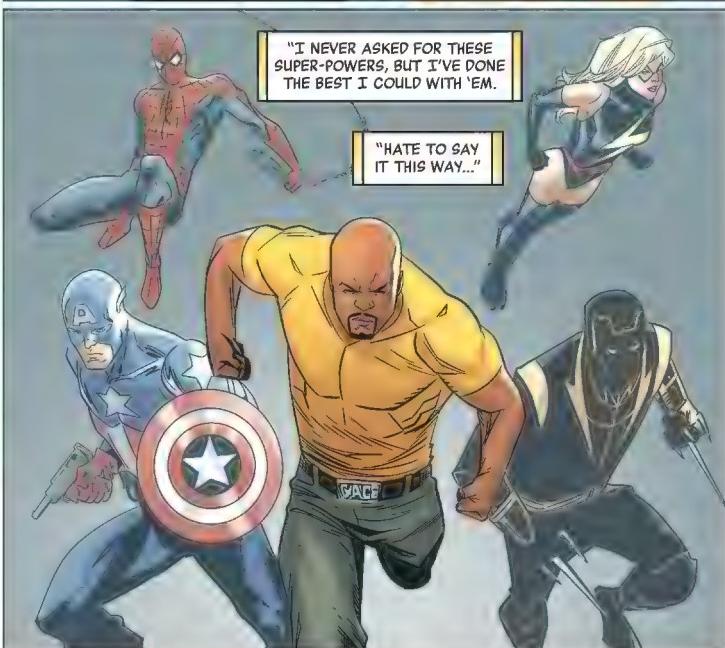
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

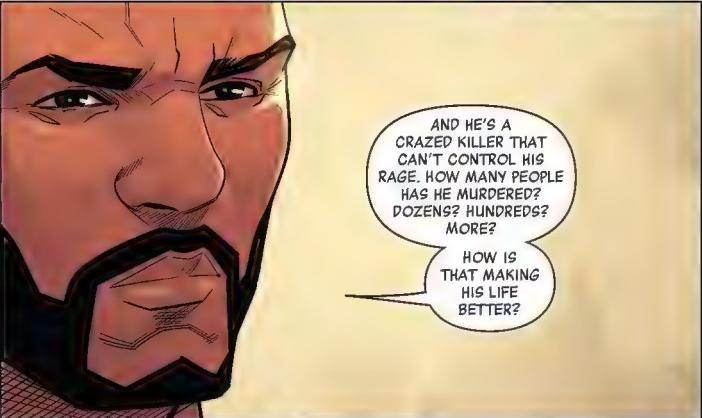
BURNING MATEO CORELLO'S ORGANIZATION TO THE GROUND IS NOT TAKING CARE OF ANYTHING. IT'S JUST CREATING MORE PROBLEMS.

ARE YOU TELLING ME HOW TO RUN MY BUSINESS?







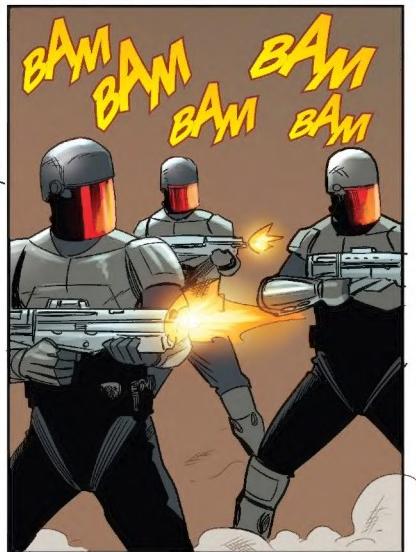




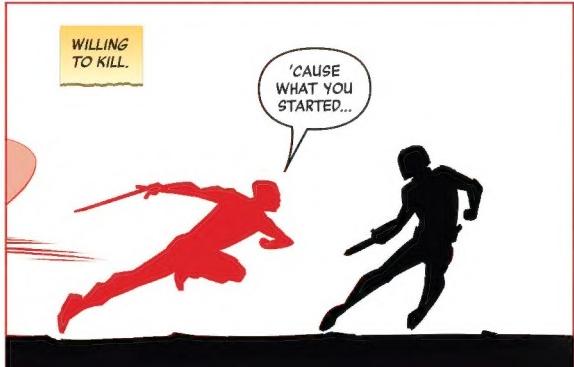












POWER MAIL

Send us your letters at mheroes@marvel.com and mark them "okay to print"!

I have been a super hero fan for a long time, but only recently started reading comics. I started with SPIDER-MAN and THE AVENGERS, which were great. However, after a while, I started looking for African American super heroes that represented me. When I first heard of Luke Cage I was a little skeptical, like, "His powers aren't even cool." Then I decided that I would try him out. It was one of, if not THE, best decisions that I have ever made with reading comic books. I read the first issue and almost went ballistic. The story is so amazing and feels real-like I can look outside and see this happening (which would be crazy awesome if that did happen). I am looking forward to seeing how this story plays out and I'm loving every second of it!!! So thank you so much for such an amazing character and story!

Joshua Shumpert-Williams

I'm glad you decided to give LUKE CAGE a try. Like you, I was looking for super heroes that represented me when I first discovered Luke (a very long time ago). It's an honor to be part of his legacy, and helping create his adventures for new fans. Thank you.

I have been following Luke Cage since I was 16 years old, when he was first introduced in 1972. I love the more serious take on the character with this series than what was presented by David F. Walker in the recently ended POWER MAN AND IRON FIST series. There's a good blend and balance of story/character development and action, I think the art really works with the crime noir tone. And more importantly, I am most impressed with the more measured and contemplative, but no less cool, persona Luke presents. This, in my opinion, is one of the best characterizations of Luke Cage in his 45 years of existence. This is certainly up there with Mary Jo Duffy, Marc McLaurin and Brian Bendis. The book is a definite winner.

Wil Condry

You have placed me in some great company. Now I feel the pressure to really deliver the goods. Luke is one of my favorite characters, and exploring the many facets of his personality has been quite splendidiferous.

Thanks for printing my letter in issue #2. I love that David makes time to answer the letters page and talk about his fine taste in music. Marvin Gaye is my favorite Motown artist; *What's Going On* is in my top five albums of all time. It's clear that David has an in-depth knowledge of Marvin because he mentions the *Trouble Man* soundtrack. What a terrible split-screen LP cover, but incredible music.

David is really connecting with old-time fans by going back to Luke's origin, but the comic is also accessible to first-timers. Nice art by Nelson and Marcio. Photo-realistic cover by Rahzzah pops off the new-comics shelf.

Bruce Marsh
QNS KOF TTB
Newbury Park
England

The soundtrack to *Trouble Man* is one of Marvin Gaye's greatest accomplishments. He was unhappy with the soundtrack he originally recorded for the film, so he went back and rerecorded and arranged all the songs for the album. If you watch the movie, none of the songs sound the same as the album. That's your history lesson for the day.

I just finished issue #2 of LUKE CAGE and, Sweet Christmas, this series has me hooked already! David F. Walker's writing is superb and his childhood devotion to this character exudes through every page. I'm a new fan of Luke Cage, I have to be honest, who was introduced to the character through the Netflix shows, beginning with *Jessica Jones*. My perception of this character is heavenly influenced by Mike Colter's portrayal. David F. Walker and Nelson Blake II's great work is bringing that perception to comic book life

for a new fan like me! Keep up the truly great work on this title, gentlemen! Luke Cage is in capable and quite "powerful" hands with this creative team. That's a bulletproof fact.

Adam

Honestly, I never thought I'd live to see a live-action Luke Cage, let alone one as cool as portrayed by Mike Colter. He's quite dreamy.

Hello, David, Nelson and team,

After only two issues, LUKE CAGE has become one of my favorite Marvel ongoing. Cage has been one of my all-time favorite characters for some time—thank you for producing such a quality title. I love the old-school feel of Dr. Burstein and Mitchell Tanner in this new series. Introducing these new characters with power sets like Luke's and Mitchell's is also a wonderful addition. Issue #3 can't get here fast enough!

Thank you to everyone involved with this book!
Jake Edwards

P.S. I second keeping Rahzzah on covers until the end of time.

Oh, if you like what's happening with Dr. Burstein and Mitchell Tanner, just wait, 'cause it gets better. Thank you for the encouraging words. We'll do our best to keep things entertaining.

David F. Walker

